

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6615
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2005
EXPORT OF IRON ORE TO CHINA
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has mounted vigilance over the recent spurt in export of low Fe content iron ore to China;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been a corresponding decline in the restricted exports of Iron ore with more than 6.4% Fe content to China;
- (d) if so, the action taken in this regard;
- (e) whether the domestic steel industry has complained that high grade iron ore is being shipped out in the garb of low grade varieties; and
- (f) if so, the Government's comments thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

- (a) & (b): The low grade iron ore (with Fe content less than 64%) is under Open General Licence for exports, and is freely exportable.
- (c) & (d): The exports of Iron Ore with more than 64% Fe content to China have declined from 17.0 Million Tonnes in 2003-04 to 13.0 Million Tonnes (Prov.) in 2004-05.
- (e) & (f): A joint team of Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and Export Inspection Council (EIC) had conducted test checks of consignments of iron ore, wherein one consignment was found to have exported iron ore containing Fe content more than 64% without having valid permission for exporting the same, and under Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, orders for fiscal penalty have, accordingly, been passed on the firm.